

Waste Collection Companies Meeting Notes

April 6, 2006

Companies with Attendees: Reston Trash, Champion Services, American Disposal, Potomac Disposal Services, AAA Trash and Recycling, 1-800-Got Junk, Virginia Trash, Federal Roll-off, Trash Away

County staff: Joyce Doughty, Randy Hancock, Charlie Forbes, Pamela Gratton, John Childress, Linda Boone, Catherine Lunsford

Guest: Clark Tyler

The meeting began at 5:05 p.m.

Introductions/Welcome

Joyce Doughty welcomed everyone. Jeff Smithberger could not attend this meeting.

Announcements/Updates

April 8 weekend is a cleanup weekend. If companies want to volunteer to help, contact Stormwater Planning. Alice Ferguson Foundation website has information about the volunteer activities.

Household Hazardous Waste Remote events are in the April newsletter. Mt.Vernon had a very successful event on April 1 with over 300 customers participating. May 6 is the date of the next event in Mason District. Joyce asked companies to please pass this information on to their customers. Future events may be held in the Dranesville district and are being considered for Herndon and Burke locations.

Know Toxics website is Knowtoxics.com or .org. This is a new program being initiated within the Northern Virginia Planning Commission to help remove toxics from the waste stream so that they are recycled or properly disposed and not landfilled or combusted.

The Energy Resource Recovery Facility is in outage with the maintenance being completed by the end of April. Prince William County waste is being kept in PWC now. Fairfax County is bypassing 500 tons of its waste daily to King George landfill.

Chapter 109 Revisions

Charles Forbes, Assistant Director, Division of Solid Waste Disposal and Resource Recovery (DSWDRR) provided a quick review of the changes to the code. A copy of the Powerpoint presentation is attached.

- Brush is to be collected separately March 1 through December 31 only; Christmas trees will be collected in January.
- Yard waste will be required to be collected separately March 1 through December 31.
- All businesses will be asked to recycle cardboard and mixed paper plus their principal recyclable material.
- The minimum level of service for yard waste collection will increase to ten bags of yard waste weekly.
- Collection companies must notify customers of rate increases and the amount of the increases in writing.

- Fairfax County has the authority to suspend Chapter 109 during emergency situations. The County will coordinate debris management through its contingency contracts. Local collection companies will be identified to help with debris if they have excess capacity.
- Chapter 109 will be reorganized to put similar information together.
- Collectors will now receive a Certificate to Operate in addition to permits for individual vehicles.
- Recycling collectors and vehicles will be registered by Fairfax County.
- Enforcement measures for violation of the Code will be codified in a new article. There will be a sliding scale for penalties that can be imposed. The concept is to give the County the ability to remove the estimated financial benefit for chronic non-compliance with the Code. The County will have the ability to use Consent Agreements as an alternative to criminal or civil remedies.

The revision to Chapter 109 will be in the form of a substitution of the whole section. The timeline for the changes to Chapter 109 are as follows:

Spring/summer 2006	Public Notice given at Board of Supervisors meeting
July 2006	Public Hearing held at Board of Supervisors meeting
Fall	Implementation of Chapter 109 revisions

The Board of Supervisors has asked the Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling to become more involved in removing large bulk piles of trash where residents won't comply to clean up the area or where the waste is improperly set out at curbside. Chapter 46 of the Code allows the Health Department to enforce cleanup for safety and public health reasons. The Division is working with the Health Department to begin co-enforcing this part of the Code.

- Q: Companies receive trees and shrubs from nurseries in the area. Will collectors continue to be able to dispose of yard waste and brush at County facilities during January-February?
- A: Yes, companies can always dispose at a County facility. The only change to the Code is that brush and yard waste will not have to be collected separately in January and February
- Q: Will collectors have to collect Christmas trees for the entire month of January? The company suggested only 2 weeks.
- A: The County will consider that in the Chapter 109 revision.
- Q: If waste collection vehicles are used to collect recyclables also, will the collection trucks also need to be registered as recycling vehicles?
- A: Yes.
- Q: Will Fairfax County decide to recycle Construction Demolition Debris (CDD)? Several construction companies are starting to ask for this option.
- A: The County Solid Waste Management Plan encourages recycling of CDD, hopefully developed by the private sector. The County might get involved in the future if privates do not fill the need. The only step taken by the County so far is to require that construction contractors must recycle cardboard and mixed paper.

Pamela Gratton mentioned a recent Council of Governments project to develop a handbook of locations where CDD can be recycled. The project will be finished soon. Almost all of the CDD recycling facilities or building materials reuse locations are in Maryland not Virginia.

Q: Will the need for CDD recycling trickle down to the residential collectors?

A: Not at this time.

Q: Yard waste collection minimum requirements increase from 6 to 10 bags of waste. Is that per weekly collection?

A: This change is based upon County staff's reaction to calls from citizens about the need to increase the amount of yard waste that is collected. Yes, the 10 bags of yard waste to be collected is per week, since yard waste is usually collected once a week.

Q: On page 6 of the draft Chapter 109, what is the difference between twigs and trees?

A: The new Chapter 109 has a definition of brush and yard waste that tries to distinguish between them and trees being disposed. Brush collection will include materials that are less than 6 inches in diameter, less than 4 feet in length and no more than 50 pounds. The County will be developing a generic yard waste management brochure to help companies get this information to their customers. If you have suggestions, please contact Pamela Gratton, since she will be responsible for getting the brochure published.

Comment: Clark Tyler commented that many homeowner associations have grounds contracts. The County should encourage those grounds maintenance companies to take away the yard waste for recycling and not put the entire burden on collection companies. He urged communities to be part of the solution also by composting materials on their property.

Q: What are the requirements for yard waste collection in townhome communities?

A: Townhomes have the same requirements as single-family homes, unless the community has an exemption because the grounds maintenance company takes care of the yard waste.

A draft copy of changes to Chapter 109 was distributed for comment. If there are comments, let County staff know by the end of April so we can react to them before the document goes to public hearing.

Update on Solid Waste Task Force (SWTF) Report

A number of items and recommendations from the SWTF report have been put in the revision to Chapter 109 such as the new definition of brush and the unified recycling program.

An article is being set aside in Chapter 109 that deals with emergency circumstances.

To improve communication, County staff is requesting that collection and disposal companies join the emergency alert network that currently provides updates on large traffic accidents, weather and other events. The County has awarded 3 debris management contracts to handle debris. There is a County Debris Management Plan (that responds to a roughly Category 2 hurricane). County staff encouraged the national contractors to use local labor or companies as much as possible.

Quality Customer Service Standards (QCSS) – The SWTF recommended using QCSS to resolve and improve customer service complaints. Collection companies that participate in QCSS are identified on the County website and companies will be asked if they want to participate in the program in FY2007, when they complete their permit applications next month.

County staff has implemented other recycling program initiatives such as a rechargeable battery program and additional e-waste events; developed flyer for the unified recycling education program; and publicized the new materials for recycling.

County staff has improved communication with collection companies by providing a list of requested sanitary districts in the monthly newsletter. The County's contracting practices will be changed as new opportunities arise for more companies to participate.

Q: Did the County allow changes to the website?

A: Yes, there will be a new topic listed under Subject Areas on the main County webpage. It will link directly to disposal, collection and recycling information. There will also be a link from that information to the County's Community Associations Manual. However, the County will not allow links to private companies. So two of the three recommendations have been approved for implementation.

FY2007 Permit Changes/Rates

Linda Boone provided a synopsis of the permit changes for FY2007. See attached handout

Q: Will the permit increase be \$100 per vehicle?

A: Yes.

Q: What about the \$10,000 bond?

A: The bond amount will not change this year. However, there are several companies who dispose of more waste than their bond limit covers. County staff is evaluating the need to raise the bond limit based upon the amount of exposure that the County has for nonpayment of invoices that are beyond the bond limit of \$10,000 per vehicle.

Q: Will a continuation certificate be acceptable for the bond this year?

A: Yes.

Automated Check Handling (ACH) Program

Linda briefed the meeting that the ACH program is coming, probably by August. Staff wants to ensure that accounting questions are addressed before we start the program, since no County agencies currently allow ACH. There are significant benefits for companies that are invoiced to participate in the program:

- Company retains its money in its account until the due date of the invoice.
- Company will never be late on a payment due to check being delayed in the mail.
- Company does not need to write a check to pay the invoice.
- Company will never pay late fees or interest if participating in ACH.
- The service is free and easy to use.

Collector Issues

Q: There was an editorial in the *Examiner* on April 5 that discussed waste collection and recycling. It costs \$130 to haul a ton of waste in NYC but over \$240 to haul recyclables. If the County knows it costs more to recycle, why do we recycle when County collection costs continue to rise in the Sanitary Districts? How much of the cost increase in Sanitary Districts is due to recycling new materials curbside?

A: None since cardboard, mixed paper and plastic bottles have been recycled in Sanitary Districts for some time. Recycling is the best thing to do with these resources, rather than dispose of them.

Sanitary Districts Announcements

Randy Hancock announced that there were 22 new customers in Dranesville District who had applied to become a Sanitary District. One household in Mason and two in Providence District have asked to be added to existing Sanitary Districts. The Public Hearing on these requests will be held on May 1, 2006 at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Auditorium at the Government Center.

Recycling Program Updates

Pamela Gratton, Recycling Program Manager, thanked companies for collecting new materials curbside. She stated that the new program implementation had been very smooth.

Q: There is an issue with the size of cardboard that will be collected. A company expressed a concern that the size of cardboard at 48 inches will not fit into collection slots on vehicles. Has the County considered that?

A: The size requirement for cardboard is similar to the sizes for yard waste and brush. Citizen response was to have no size constraints on cardboard. Cardboard can be set out next to bins and not necessarily in the recycling bins. Larger amounts of cardboard would need to be bundled and fall within the 50 pound limit. The expectation is that companies will collect all cardboard set out for recycling.

Q: Why does the County collection route not have to comply on Blaine Avenue? The customers do not have containers for recycling?

A: Joyce will send inspectors to look at it. Tuesday is pickup on Blaine Avenue.

Yard waste separation began again on April 1. Yard waste should not be collected with regular trash.

Operational Items

Joyce mentioned that VDOT staff will be at the next Collectors meeting to discuss debris blowing around the community. There have been several recent complaints about front loaders losing trash as they dump containers. Blowing trash is a big concern within many communities. If your company spills something when loading a truck, your employees must clean it up.

Q: What happened to the suggestion about installing a "No right turn sign" at I-66?

A: Staff thinks it will not work. Vehicles getting a tare weight have been cutting line. It is a longstanding issue. Reweighs are difficult to monitor but I-66 staff are on the alert about it now.

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The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: July 6, 2006 at 5:00 P.M. GOVERNMENT CENTER, ROOM 4/5